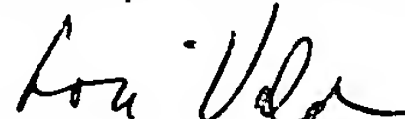


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : Continuation Appln. based
on PCT/JP02/12222
Applicant : Yasuhide YOSHIDA et al
Filed : Concomitantly herewith
TC/A.U. :
Examiner: :
Docket No. : 03573C/HG
Customer No.: 01933
Confirm. No.:

Express Mail Mailing Label
No.: EL 983 137 091 US
Date of Deposit: September 18, 2003

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Lori Valdes

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
FILED CONCOMITANT WITH APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents
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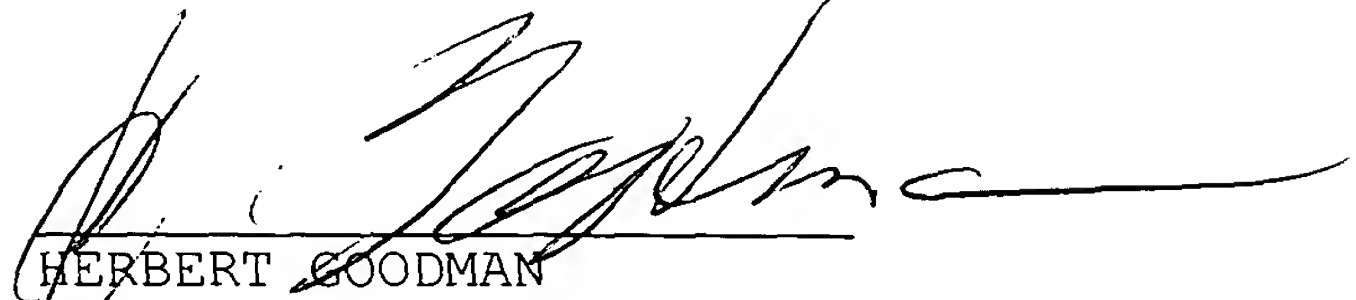
S I R :

A copy of each of the publications identified in the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A is enclosed herewith. Each of these publications is identified in the present specification, starting on page 2. Of said publications, JP 2001-172481 A (which is identified and discussed on pages 4-5 of the present specification), is also identified in the enclosed copy of the English language International Search Report in the parent International Application PCT/JP02/12222.

It is requested that said publications be considered and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A with the Examiner's

initials in the left column be returned to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encs.: Form PTO/SB/08A and publications identified thereon;
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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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				Filing Date		Concomitantly herewith	
				First Named Inventor		Yasuhide YOSHIDA et al	
				Group Art Unit			
				Examiner Name			
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		03573C/HG	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits ¹	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits ¹	Cite No ¹	offc ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
		JP	59-232852	A	TOYO KOHAN CO LTD	12-27-1984		*
		JP	1-180336	A	NIPPON STEEL CORP	07-18-1989		*
		JP	5-269920	A	NIPPON STEEL CORP	10-19-1993		*
		JP	6-320669	A	TOYO KOHAN CO LTD	11-22-1994		*
		JP	7-195617	A	TOYO SEIKAN KAISHA	08-01-1995		*
		JP	7-195618	A	TOYO SEIKAN KAISHA	08-01-1995		*
		JP	7-290643	A	MITSUI PETROCHEM	11-07-1995		*
		JP	7-290644	A	MITSUI PETROCHEM	11-07-1995		*
		WO	99/27026	A	NIPPON STEEL CORP	06-03-1999		*
		JP	2001-172481	A	NIPPON STEEL CORP	06-26-2001		*
		JP	2001-353814	A	TOYO SEIKAN KAISHA	12-25-2001		*
			*English language Abstract only					

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: September 18, 2003